

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) An apparatus for classifying information transmitted over a communications network into content category classifications, the apparatus comprising:

means for obtaining one or more transmission interaction characteristics in a session of transmission of information between communications terminals on a path of said communications network, said one or more transmission interaction characteristics including at least one of i) a network protocol, ii) data and time stamps, iii) size of text and image transmission activities, iv) content category of transmission activities, and v) signal pattern seen within the content of the transmission; and

analysing means for predicting a content category classification of said information based on said one or more transmission interaction characteristics, the content category classification prediction being free of any user input and free of any relevancy as to a particular user.

2-4. (cancelled)

5. (currently amended) An apparatus for classifying user profiles of users accessing information or content servers on a communications network, the apparatus comprising:

means for obtaining one or more transmission interaction characteristics in a session of transmission of information between user communications terminals or information provided by any one of said content servers to a user communications terminal on a path of said communications network, said one or more transmission interaction characteristics including at least one of i) a network protocol, ii) data and time stamps, iii) size of text and image transmission activities, iv) content category of transmission activities, and v) signal pattern seen within the content of the transmission;

analysing means for predicting a content category classification of said information or said one content server based on said one or more transmission interaction characteristics, the content category classification prediction being free of any user input and free of any relevancy as to a particular user; and

means for classifying user profile in accordance with the predicted content category classification.

6. (cancelled)

7. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising means for storing said one or more transmission interaction characteristics.

8. (cancelled)

9. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said one or more transmission characteristics are obtained from network packets or fragments thereof.

10. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the analysing means includes profiling means for providing profiles of interactions based on said one or more transmission interaction characteristics.

11. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said profiling means is arranged to process said one or more transmission interaction characteristics for providing any one or more of: a frequency of interaction; a duration of interaction; a duration of absence of interaction; patterns of transmission; an average number of http links within an object of related sites; an average number of like sites visited within a time frame; and statistics from said other characteristics for forming interaction profiles; and the

analysing means is adapted to use the interaction profiles for predicting content category classifications.

12. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a knowledge base of predetermined profiles, and the analysing means is adapted to predict a particular content category classification based on a comparison between the profile of information to be classified and predetermined profiles.

13. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising means for updating the knowledge base so that the content category classification prediction can be enhanced following classifications.

14. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said communications terminals including at least one content server and at least one user communications terminal, and the information is transmitted from the content server to the user communications terminal, the content server being classified according to the content category classification predicted by the analysing means.

15. (new) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein,

the means for obtaining one or more transmission interaction characteristics obtains at least two of i) the network protocol, ii) the data and time stamps, iii) the size of text and image transmission activities, iv) the content category of transmission activities, and v) the signal pattern seen within the content of the transmission; and

the analysing means for predicting the content category classification of said information is based on said two or more transmission interaction characteristics, the content category classification prediction being free of any user input and free of any relevancy as to a current user.

16. (new) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein,

the means for obtaining one or more transmission interaction characteristics obtains at least three of i) the network protocol, ii) the data and time stamps, iii) the size of text and image transmission activities, iv) the content category of transmission activities, and v) the signal pattern seen within the content of the transmission; and

the analysing means for predicting the content category classification of said information is based on said three or more transmission interaction characteristics, the content category classification prediction being free of any user input and free of any relevancy as to a current user.

17. (new) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein,

the means for obtaining one or more transmission interaction characteristics obtains each of of i) the network protocol, ii) the data and time stamps, iii) the size of text and image transmission activities, iv) the content category of transmission activities, and v) the signal pattern seen within the content of the transmission; and

the analysing means for predicting the content category classification of said information is based on each of said transmission interaction characteristics, the content category classification prediction being free of any user input and free of any relevancy as to a current user.